



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE

May 19, 2008

**H.R. 5940**

**National Nanotechnology Initiative Amendments Act of 2008**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science and Technology on May 7, 2008*

H.R. 5940 would modify certain research guidelines and educational activities and provide for more oversight of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), an interagency program under the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) devoted to advancing nanotechnology. (Nanotechnology refers to a field of applied science focusing on the control of matter on the atomic and molecular scale, generally 100 nanometers or smaller, and the fabrication of materials that lie within that size range.) CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 5940 would cost about \$5 million over the 2009-2013 period. Enacting H.R. 5940 would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 5940 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Currently, 13 federal agencies participate in the NNI, with a total budget of about \$1.5 billion in 2008. Generally, H.R. 5940 would modify research guidelines and provide for more oversight of certain NNI research programs, including the Environmental, Health, and Safety (EHS) and Societal Dimensions programs, which are dedicated to understanding the effects of nanomaterials on public health and safety. The bill also would increase the emphasis on education programs for nanotechnology, nanomanufacturing, and large-scale research in certain areas.

H.R. 5940 would authorize new activities for the National Nanotechnology Coordinating Office, which provides technical and administrative support for the NNI. Those activities would include developing a public database listing projects funded under the EHS, Societal Dimensions, and nanomanufacturing program areas, and publicizing information on nanotechnology facilities available for use by academia and industry. CBO estimates that implementing those activities would cost about \$3 million over the 2009-2013 period.

Based on the cost of similar activities, CBO estimates that other activities required by the bill would cost about \$2 million over the 2009-2013 period. Those activities include:

- Establishing a stand-alone NNI Advisory Panel and modifying NNI reporting requirements;
- Conducting a public meeting and subsequent review by the NNI Advisory Panel addressing the NNI's nanomanufacturing program; and
- Offering access to federal nanotechnology research facilities and encouraging small businesses to submit nanotechnology-related proposals under certain federal grant programs.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Leigh Angres. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistance Director for Budget Analysis.